

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 06370 191301Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----124987 191304Z /53

O 191200Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 449
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2316
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6370

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, EAID, PEPR, CG
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS

REF KINSHASA 6350

1. UPON LEARNING THAT MOBUTU HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE FRENCH
AMBASSADOR ROSS AT 0900 TODAY, JUNE 19 (REFTEL), I TELEPHONED
MOBUTU EVENING JUNE 17 AND ASKED TO SEE HIM ON MONDAY ALSO.
I SAID I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM PERSONALLY
CERTAIN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PARIS AND BRUSSELS
MEETINGS, AND TO DELIVER THE TEXT OF A PERSONAL LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER IN RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S LETTER OF JUNE 4.
MOBUTU DID NOT IMMEDIATELY AGREE TO RECEIVE ME, ASKING INSTEAD
THAT I CALL HIM BACK TODAY.

2. MOBUTU, WHO SOUNDED TIRED AND NOT IN THE BEST OF MOODS,
WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT AT THE
BRUSSELS CONFERENCE SEVERAL COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES,
HAD ADOPTED A VERY RESERVED POSITION WITH RESPECT TO HELPING
ZAIRE. I RESPONDED THAT WE, FOR OUR PART, HAD FOUND THE
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MEETING USEFUL AND I WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT A SCENARIO HAD BEEN
PROJECTED FOR FUTURE MEETINGS TO CONSULT FURTHER ON ZAIRE'S
PROBLEMS; OUR POSITION ON THESE MATTERS WAS WHAT I WISHED TO
DISCUSS PERSONALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT.

3. ROSS HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE
PRESIDENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL LATER THIS MORNING, JUNE 19,

BECAUSE MOBUTU IS TO OPEN AN MPR PARTY SEMINAR BEING HELD FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. (ROSS LEAVES KINSHASA THIS AFTERNOON FOR WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE IN DAKAR.)

4. AS REQUESTED BY MOBUTU, I WILL CALL AGAIN TODAY TO TRY TO ARRANGE MEETING. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MOBUTU -- WHO OBVIOUSLY IS WELL AWARE OF WHAT THE PARIS FIVE ARE UP TO -- MAY STILL TRY TO PRE-EMPT THE THRUST OF OUR DEMARCHE, PERHAPS BY A SPEECH AT THE MPR SEMINAR. MY INTENTION, HOWEVER, IS TO PRESS AHEAD FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING FOLLOWING ROSS' INITIAL APPROACH.

CUTLER

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